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CONGRESS, } SENATE. { EX. DOC.
Session. } { No. 79.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In answer to a Senate resolution of April 29, 1878, information respecting the terms and conditions under which the surrender of the Cuban insurgents has been made, and in relation to the future policy of Spain in the government of the island of Cuba.

MAY 14, 1878.—Read, referred to the Committee or Foreign Relations, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

In answer to the resolution of the Senate of the 29th ultimo, I transmit, herewith, a report from the Secretary of State, with its accompanying papers.

R. B. HAYES.

WASHINGTON, *May* 14, 1878.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 14, 1878.

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of the 29th ultimo, requesting the President "to communicate to the Senate, if not incompatible with the public interests, such information as the government has received respecting the terms and conditions under which the surrender of the Cuban insurgents has been made, together with such other information in his possession respecting the future policy of Spain in the government of the island of Cuba," has the honor to lay before the President the papers specified in the subjoined list, which contain the information called for by the resolution.

WM. M. EVARTS.

To the PRESIDENT.

LIST OF PAPERS.

Correspondence with the Spanish Legation.

No. 1. General Jovellar to Mr. Mantilla. [Telegram.] Havana, February 16, 1878.
No. 2. Mr. Mantilla to Mr. Evarts. Washington, March 23, 1878. (Extracts.)
No. 3. The same to the same Washington, March 23, 1878.
No 4. The same to the same. Washington, April 3, 1878. (Extracts.)
No. 5. Mr. Seward to Mr. Mantilla. Washington, April 10, 1878.

Correspondence with the Consulate-General at Havana.

No. 6. Mr. Hall to Mr. Seward. (No. 663.) Havana, February 16, 1878.
No. 7. The same to the same. (No. 664.) Havana, February 23, 1878.
No. 8. Mr. Seward to Mr. Hall. Washington, February 26, 1878.
No. 9. Mr. Hall to Mr. Seward. (No. 666.) Havana, March 2, 1878.
No. 10. The same to the same. (No. 667.) Havana, March 2, 1878.
No. 11. The same to the same. (No. 668.) Havana, March 5, 1878.
No. 12. Mr. Seward to Mr. Hall. Washington, March 12, 1878.

No. 1.

General Jovellar to Mr. Mantilla.—Handed to Mr. Evarts by Mr. Mantilla, February 16, 1878.

[Translation.]

HAVANA, *February* 16.

(SPANISH) MINISTER, *Washington:*

His excellency has suspended the operations of the campaign in consequence of agreements between the general-in-chief and the central junta of the insurgents, which, it is very probable, will give peace as the final result.

JOVELLAR.

No. 2.

Mr. Mantilla to Mr. Evarts.

WASHINGTON, *March* 23, 1878. (Received March 23.)

The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of His Catholic Majesty, has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the note of the honorable the Secretary of State of the United States, of the 21st instant, referring to the pacification of the island of Cuba.

* * * * * *

The undersigned is collecting data and information necessary to answering the aforesaid note, which he will be able to do in a very few days. * * * * * In a few days the undersigned will have the honor to send a note to the honorable Mr. Evarts, acquainting him more fully with the situation in Cuba, and answering his of March 21st, and in the meanwhile he avails himself of this occasion to renew him the assurance of his very high consideration.

ANTONIO MANTILLA.

No. 3.

(*Mr. Mantilla to Mr. Evarts.*)

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF SPAIN AT WASHINGTON,
Washington, March 23, 1878. (Received March 25, 1878.)

The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of His Catholic Majesty, in compliance with the desire to be accurately

informed as to the present real condition of the Island of Cuba, which was expressed to him by the honorable Secretary of State of the United States, during their conference of Thursday, the 21st instant, takes pleasure in communicating the official information which he has received in relation to the latest phase and speedy termination of the civil contest in that island.

Without investigating the origin of the unjustifiable and useless Cuban insurrection, or enumerating the various causes, both internal and external, which have occasioned its duration for a longer time than it could have lasted under normal circumstances in Spain, or drawing a comparison between the ever conciliatory policy of the Spanish government, and the until lately uncompromising one of the misguided sons of the mother country, which task he thinks he could easily and triumphantly perform to the satisfaction of his countrymen and the enlightenment of foreigners, but which would require more time than he now has at his disposal, the undersigned will confine himself to a brief sketch of the most remarkable circumstances that gave rise to the latest events.

The insurrection having been broken by various causes, both internal and external, with its most active forces reduced by the action of time and the vicissitudes of the struggle to elements which were for the most part foreign, with no connection with each other, and having no direct interest in the future of the island, and having been conquered by the policy of energy in the field of battle, of generosity toward the misguided insurgents, and of clemency toward the vanquished, which was so happily inaugurated by Generals Jovellar and Martinez Campos, the present governor and captain-general of the island, and the general-in-chief of its army; the insurrection, I say, was in a visible state of decadence when, in October last, several of the most prominent Cuban leaders surrendered unconditionally to the Spanish authorities, and spontaneously undertook the task of bringing over to their pacific plans the few leaders of Cuban origin who still remained in the ranks of the insurgents.

Having been taken and tried by court-martial, by order of the general-in-chief of the Cuban forces, some of these leaders paid for their patriotic efforts at pacification with their lives; but, almost at the same time, the shadows of a legislative chamber and of a government of the imaginary Republic of Cuba, which never had any form or real life, nor any foot-hold in any city, village, or hamlet, and which for some time had been wandering through the thickest forests of the most inaccessible portion of the extensive and thinly-peopled region of Camaguey, were at last overtaken and surprised by small bodies of Spanish troops, the chamber, in its mountain encampment, and the head of the government while leaving that encampment on a political errand.

The result was the dispersion of the so-called chamber (house) of representatives, the death of its presiding officer, Don Eduardo Machado Gomez, and some of its members; that of the Secretary of War, Lieut. Col. La Rua, and the capture of the president of the so-called republic, Don Tomas Estrada, who was not tried by any court, but sent to Spain by the government. The treatment received by Mr. Estrada from the time of his arrival at the Spanish headquarters, the consideration shown him during his brief stay in the Morro Castle at Havana by the captain-general of the island, and complaints made by him against his political friends and partisans, not only on account of their abandonment of him, but also of the accusations of disloyalty which had been made by them against him, form the subject of the last part of a letter written by him to one of them residing in New York, which was published on the 15th

of December in the Cuban newspapers of that city. That portion which is the most interesting of this long letter will be found in Appendix A.

Speaking of the aspect then presented by the insurrection in Cuba, one of its organs in New York, La Independencia, in its number for October 27, 1877, after referring to the latest news received from Cuba as grave and highly important, sought to make it appear less significant, expressing itself thus:

"The news to which we refer is by no means improbable. We know what has happened in Cuba during the past year, and this news does not surprise us, it being in our opinion, the finale of a great crisis which has been coming on in the insurgent camp since the citizen, Tomas Estrada Palma became president of our republic, who, according to the Spanish dispatch which we publish elsewhere, has been taken prisoner by a detachment of Spanish troops near Holguin, together with the secretary and several members of the legislative chamber.

"Suffice it to say, that according to all the private information that we have received during the past two months, it seems to be indubitable that President Estrada and the chamber had been deposed by the liberating army, and that they had consequently ceased to perform their official functions. * * * The vitality of the Cuban insurrection does not depend and never has depended upon the government or the chamber; it depends exclusively upon the liberating army. * * * The organization of the liberating army is such that a brigade, a regiment, a battalion, a company, or a party of twenty-five men can operate independently against the enemy in any department, without requiring any instructions save those of their immediate military officers, because their purpose is but one, and that is known by heart, as well by the general as the soldier, by the negro as well as the white man or the Chinese, viz, to make war on the enemy at all times, in all places, and by all means; with the gun, the machete,* and the fire-brand. In order to do this, which is the duty of every Cuban soldier, the direction of a government or legislative chamber is not needed; the order of a subaltern officer, serving under the general-in-chief, is sufficient. Thus it is that *the government and chamber have in reality been a superfluous luxury for the revolution.*"

What an admirable organization was this of the Cuban army, divided up into parties of twenty-five, the majority of them being negroes and Chinese, according to the organ of the insurgents! What wretched military tactics, according to which the use of the machete and the fire-brand was allowable! What consideration and respect appear to have been shown to the executive and legislative branches of the Republic of Cuba by the general-in-chief, who is represented as having deposed those branches and having proclaimed himself dictator! The article in which a full statement of this is made is given entire in Appendix B, that it may be placed on file in the Department of State, since it is too late to submit it to the consideration and examination of those who favor the recognition of the belligerency or independence of Cuba.

This article is full of the passion and exaggeration of the inflammable spirit of the Cuban emigrants who, in the secure asylum of this country, and abusing the generous hospitality of the United States, have for many years been lending aid and comfort to the Cuban insurrection, advocating the extermination of the Spaniards, and upholding the use of the murderous machete and of the torch of the incendiary as the principal means of securing the independence of the island, to which

*For a good definition of this word, see late editions of Webster's Dictionary.

task they are still ardently devoting their efforts, although the contest has been abandoned by those whom these emigrants, without incurring any risk themselves, would have wished to see convert the splendid and rich soil of Cuba into a vast pile of ruins and ashes; but there is a great deal of truth in the description of the character lately presented by the insurrection, and in the description of the insurgent bands, which could no longer be called Cuban, and in the assertion that for such bands and such purposes the chamber and the government were a superfluous luxury.

This being the view taken by the few but still influential Cubans who remained in Camaguey, the center of the insurrectionary movement, and who were fighting for independence, not for the ruin of the island, having more confidence in the well-tried generosity of Spain than in the fatal counsels of the emigrants in this country, in January last they made proposals of peace to the general-in-chief, seeking to obtain a suspension of hostilities in the territorial zone in which the Cuban chamber and government then were, the former being composed of only six members, the latter having been dissolved by the capture of President Estrada, and the general opinion of the people and of the armed force being expressed in favor of the termination of the struggle, only very few dissenting, the majority co-operating in the work of peace, and all intrusting the powers of the republic to a revolutionary committee which was instructed to make proposals of peace to the general-in-chief. By the middle of February a capitulation was reached, the preliminaries of which are not yet known to the undersigned, but whose terms were published in an extra issued by the Havana Gazette, the original of which is transmitted in Appendix C.

The arrangement made with the central committee having been made applicable to all the departments of the island, some of the principal leaders of the insurrection, among them the most prominent of all, Maximo Gomez, put themselves in communication with the other insurgent leaders, with a view of persuading them to put an end to the contest and to capitulate; and the revolutionary committee, which had assumed all the powers of the insurrection, commissioned Brigadier-General Gabriel Gonzales to inform, verbally, representatives in New York of the dissolved government "of the events that had just taken place in the territory of the republic."

Meanwhile the scattered bands of insurgents in Camaguey having been collected, on the 28th of February, which was the day appointed for the surrender, defiled in Puerto Principe before the general-in-chief of the Spanish army, amid the most enthusiastic acclamations, and on the day following, March 1, the undersigned received at New York the following telegram from the captain-general of Cuba:

HAVANA, *March* 1, 1878.

TO THE MINISTER OF SPAIN:

Yesterday all the bands in the department of Principe, to the number of about one thousand men, with an equal number of women and children, surrendered, together with the central committee; also those of Sancti Spiritus and La Trocha, estimated at eight hundred. Other surrenders are expected in a few days. The general-in-chief leaves Principe for the oriental department, in order to accelerate matters.

JOVELLAR.

On the same day tha tthe formerly rebel forces of Camagüey surrendered, Brigadier-General Gonzales arrived in New York, having been deputed by the revolutionary committee of that territory (at the head of whom was the ex-president of the legislative chamber, formerly provisional president of the republic and the author of some of its most

severe decrees, especially of the one against Cubans who should listen to proposals of peace not based upon the recognition of the independence of Cuba) to notify the representatives of the dissolved government of the events that had taken place in the territory of the ex-republic, which representatives, notwithstanding the recent public manifestations of some of them against the probability of the reported surrender of the insurgents without a recognition of Cuban independence, yielding to the irresistible force of facts, recognized as no longer doubtful the dissolution of the Cuban chamber and government, and hastened to declare that "they no longer exercised the functions confided to them by said government."

The document in which this declaration was contained was sent on the evening of the 1st to the newspapers of New York, and was printed in full in the New York Herald of the 2d, and published on the 9th in the Cuban revolutionary organ called La Independencia, in the form shown by the printed slip in Appendix D.

Since that time all the newspapers in the United States have been full of telegraphic news concerning surrenders in Cuba of more or less numerous parties under more or less prominent leaders, concerning hopes of speedy and absolute peace, concerning the feelings of fraternity and forgetfulness of the past now prevailing among those who were yesterday fighting on hostile fields, of which hopes and feelings the consul of the United States at Havana became the organ in a communication of the 5th to the Department of State, an extract from which was published in the Washington papers, and concerning the indignation with which the capitulating Cuban leaders and the sympathizers in Cuba with the cause defended by them regarded the warlike declarations of the uncompromising revolutionists in New York, and the purpose which was publicly expressed by them to organize fresh expeditions to prevent the complete pacification of the island; but the governor, captain-general of Cuba, who acts in everything, especially in matters of so grave a nature as the one in question, with as much sincerity as circumspection, addressed to the undersigned, in that relatively long space of time, the following telegram only:

HAVANA, *March* 19, 1878.

To the MINISTER OF SPAIN *at Washington*:

Yesterday ended the surrender of the insurgent forces of the Villas, whose territory is now entirely free. Those who surrendered were Major-General Roloff, Brigadier-General Maestre, three colonels, fifty-five officers, four hundred and four private soldiers, and about one hundred women and children.

The bands in Bayamo, Manzanillo, and Tiguani had already surrendered on the 8th, with Modesto Diaz, so that the country is completely pacified as far as Holguin.

JOVELLAR.

As is seen by the foregoing telegram, and as may be verified by consulting a map of Cuba, the pacification of the island is far advanced, but it is not yet complete and definitive. Nevertheless, the civil and military authorities of Spain, reciprocating the good faith with which the capitulators of Camaguey fulfilled the terms of their capitulation on the day after they had defiled in Puerto Principe before the general-in-chief of the army, that is to say, the 1st day of March, in strict fulfillment of article 1 of said capitulation, issued a decree of the same date, which was published in the Havana Gazette of the 3d, and which the honorable Secretary of State will find in Appendix E. By this decree it is provided, that the island of Cuba shall be represented in the Cortes of the kingdom at their next session; that its government and local administration shall be modeled according to the municipal and provin-

cial laws of the peninsula, as they are in force in Porto Rico, and that the government of His Majesty shall be requested to introduce in the island of Cuba, in the manner prescribed in article 89 of the constitution of the monarchy, the other laws which have been, or which may hereafter be, promulgated in the peninsula. In virtue of article 1 of the aforesaid decree, the undersigned thinks that, according to the census of its population, Cuba will be entitled to at least twenty deputies in the Cortes, in addition to the senators chosen by the people according to the electoral law, and to those whom it already has of its own right or by virtue of royal appointment.

In the decree in question the phrase is to be noted with which its preamble begins: "The war being now near its end" (not a regular war in the sense in which it is defined by international law, but an intestine struggle, civil contest, or armed rebellion, which, in the military parlance of the Spanish language, is commonly called war); which phrase shows that said military authorities do not consider the contest to be entirely at an end, although its termination is very near. The first sentence in the second paragraph of the same preamble is also noteworthy, in which it is declared that, had it not been for this contest, "Cuba would long since have enjoyed, according to the constitution of the state, the advantages which must necessarily accrue to her from a possible assimilation to the peninsula," which shows that the prevailing sentiment in Spain is in favor of treating Cuba as Porto Rico has been treated; that is to say, like a Spanish province, although she could not grant to rebellious subjects what they demand with arms in their hands, namely, absolute independence during a time of trial for the mother country, nor even what she was always ready to grant them voluntarily, and what she has now granted, at a time of greater prosperity for herself, to them, now that they have repented and sued for peace, which is an act of generosity and a guarantee of reconciliation.

A decree of the general-in-chief of the army of operations in the island of Cuba was also inserted in the Havana Gazette of the 3d.

This was issued at Puerto Principe on the 10th of March, and will be found in appendix F. It guarantees the freedom which was offered in article 3, of the capitulation of all slaves who were in the ranks of the insurgents on the 10th day of February, and who have surrendered or who shall surrender before the 31st day of the current month of March.

Articles 5, 6, 7, and 8 of the capitulation have been fulfilled already, or are now in course of fulfillment, toward all who are willing to take advantage of their benefits. Article 4 requires no immediate action, and article 2 has always constituted the distinguishing trait of the Spanish policy in Cuba. Forgetfulness of the past, pardon of political crimes, release of property embargoed for the same cause, mitigation of the effects of these embargoes as regards the innocent members of the families of those whose property has been embargoed, and even the furnishing of means of subsistence to repentant rebels—all this has been frequently offered or granted by the government and authorities of Spain from the time of the decree of amnesty, issued on the 12th of January, 1869, by the governor, captain-general of the island, Don Domingo Dulce, who was sent by the revolutionary government of 1868 to establish in Cuba the same liberties and franchises that were enjoyed by the peninsula, until the royal decree of October 27, 1877, by which the unimproved public lands, certain forests belonging to the state, and town lands not used, are ordered to be divided among various classes, viz:

1st. Licentiates and volunteers, who have been mobilized or who have taken part in a battle.

2d. Inhabitants of the towns of the island who have remained loyal to the government and who have suffered considerable losses of property in consequence of the war.

3d. *Persons who have voluntarily surrendered to the authorities and forces of the government.*

The reproduction and analysis of all these general acts, and many other private ones of pardon, clemency, and generosity, would render this note interminable, which had no other object, as remarked at the beginning, than to satisfy the desire of the honorable Secretary of State to become accurately acquainted with the present situation of Cuba, but which the undersigned, in his wish to correct false impressions which have been circulated by the conspirators against Spain in this country, has thought proper to extend sufficiently to indicate succinctly the policy of Spain in Cuba and the causes that have given rise to the recent events. Although the government of Spain does not recognize the right of any foreign power to interfere in the internal affairs of that country, it values too highly the opinion of the sensible people of the United States and the friendship of its government for its representative at Washington to neglect an opportunity like the one now offered to present in their true aspect the acts, intentions, and constant policy of Spain in her relations with the island of Cuba.

If it were necessary, or the honorable Secretary of State should desire it, the undersigned would amplify and prove by means of trustworthy documents the assertions which he has just made, and he proposes shortly to show that the only obstacle that can now retard, not absolutely prevent, the complete pacification of Cuba, is the war-cry and the false promises of immediate aid which are once more sent from New York by the Cuban conspirators, who urge in public meetings the continuation of the struggle which is now so near its end. And it is a remarkable fact that in this struggle, by a sad fatality for the liberators of Cuba, a fatality which would not escape, and which has not escaped, the observation of the American people and the perspicacity of its enlightened press, foreigners have been its principal leaders—those who have most zealously maintained it, and who have most distinguished themselves in it. Jordan and Reeve, Americans; Maximo Gomez and Modesto Diaz, Dominicans; Roloff, a Pole; Caoba and Maceo, the one an African and the other a semi African; Prado, the captor of the Moctezuma, a Peruvian; and finally, not to mention any more names, Gonzales, a Mexican, who was deputed by the revolutionary committee of Camagüey to announce the dissolution of the legislative chamber and of the government of the republic to its representatives in the United States. Even the diplomatic commissioner of Cuba abroad, Echerarria, who less than a month ago proclaimed throughout the length and breadth of this great country, by a circular telegram from the Washington agency of the Associated Press, that the news of the submission of the greater part of the insurgent leaders was false, and that they would accept no terms not based upon the recognition of Cuban independence—even that diplomatic agent, whom the honorable Committee on Foreign Relations of the House of Representatives of the United States, having charge of Cuban affairs, received and listened to with interest in the belief that he was a son of Cuba, is no Cuban at all, but a Venezuelan.

If an insurrection composed of such antagonistic elements as the Latin, African, Mongolian, and Anglo-Saxon races, led on by officers of all known nationalities, could have triumphed, the confusion of tongues at the tower of Babel, and the memorable catastrophe which took place in the formerly French portion of the island of Santo Domingo, would

have been cast into the shade by the spectacle which victorious, free, and Africanized Cuba would have presented to the civilized world.

The undersigned avails himself of this occasion to renew to the Hon. William M. Evarts the assurances of his most distinguished consideration.

ANTONIO MANTILLA.

No. 4.

Mr. Mantilla to Mr. Evarts.

LEGACION DE ESPAÑA EN WASHINGTON,
Washington, April 3, 1878.

* * * * * * *

On the preceding day the undersigned received a telegram from the governor-general of Cuba, to the effect that, after much hesitation, Vicente Garcia has refused to make a capitulation. Besides him, as the governor-general observes, there are remaining in resistance to the government in Cuba only Maceo, in the neighborhood of Las Tunas, and Mayary. In the department of Las Villas, the Central, and in part of the Oriental, there is the most complete tranquillity.

The uniform tendency of the semi-official telegrams from Havana, published in the journals of New York on the 28th ult., is to confirm the news that the local disturbances in the eastern and central portions of the island, which have so persistently and unhappily afflicted Cuba during the past ten years, have subsided, and that good order is generally reappearing.

This is substantially the same condition of affairs that was exhibited by the undersigned in his note of the 23d March to the Department of State, in compliance with the invitation verbally expressed by the Hon. Mr. Evarts on the 21st.

The inconvenience and peril of this imperfect condition of internal administration in the eastern portion of the Island of Cuba would be really unimportant to Spain or to the authorities of that island were it not for the relation which such isolated disorder bears to a busy nest of Cuban, Central American, and South American conspirators in the city of New York. As is well known to the distinguished Secretary of State, the three prominent agents of the so-called Republic of Cuba in that city (Messieurs Aldama, Echeverria, and Sanguili) abandoned their illegal functions when the officials in Cuba of that (so-called) "Republic" recently threw aside their absurd pretensions to constitute a government, and confessed that no such government existed. The city of New York has been, since 1869, the real fountain and arsenal of the insurrection in Cuba. Its newspapers were there. Its leading generals were there, and are yet there. There was its financial and military base of operations. Resistance to the constituted authority of Spain in Cuba was kept alive in the eastern part of that island, from 1869 to 1878, chiefly by representations that the powerful government of the United States would in the end, and very soon, come to the aid of the revolt, as against Spain. By various devices, bonds of the so-called "Republic of Cuba," payable whenever that island attained her independence of Spain, were sold in the United States (in violation of public law, because not bought as a *bona-fide* investment of money), and the sums received therefor used in the city of New York to support the revolt in that

city, and also to fit out military enterprises from the shores of the United States against Cuba. The large Cuban immigration in Florida and in New York, chiefly occupied in the manufacture of leaf-tobacco for various uses, was coerced or deluded, for many years, into contributing a portion of its slender earnings to keep alive the Cuban revolt until the United States saw fit to come to its rescue, either by belligerent recognition or in some other way. The pressure of what is known as the "hard times" in the United States (and which has been so generally felt all over Europe) has thrown a great many of these frightened or deluded Cubans out of employment altogether, or has made it impossible for them to have any surplus earnings left, after paying their necessary expenses. These, and other causes, left the conspirators in New York without funds with which to manufacture what was called a "public opinion" in the United States, or to send military enterprises to Cuba; and therefore, of necessity, the revolt in the eastern and central portions of the island straightway began to expire.

* * * * * * *

There are in the United States, and particularly in New York, both Cubans and Americans who seek for their own selfish purposes to reconstitute the insurrection in New York, and fill the places vacated by Aldama, Echeverria, and Sanguili. There are Cuban journals printed in New York in the Spanish language, which even now persist in proclaiming the necessity of continual resistance in Cuba, of assailing the authority of Spain in that island, and in urging the importance of sending as soon as possible military succor to the roving bands of discontented negroes, Chinese, escaped Cuban criminals, and deserters from the army of Spain, who wander about, or in the mountains of the extreme oriental part of the island. Public meetings are held in New York with the same object. These Cuban newspapers and these public meetings organize committees to receive subscriptions of money. They ask the former agents in New York of the so-called Republic of Cuba to surrender to them the funds and other property * * * * of the so-called Republic, which may be in their possession. They publicly solicit the assistance of certain South American governments. What very many, and indeed a great part of these conspirators are doing in New York, is in palpable violation of the neutrality laws of the United States; but the undersigned has not thus far deemed it necessary to formally invite the attention of the President of the United States to these acts, because the undersigned has believed that these acts would be harmless in their character.

* * * * * * *

The Department of State may be assured that the undersigned will cause to be transmitted, for the information of the President, the first official news which is received that the Cuban insurrection is at an end in the eastern part of the Island of Cuba and the city of New York.

The Secretary of State must have observed how promptly and liberally Spain offered pardon and immunity to her erring Cuban subjects on the first intimation of a desire or willingness on their part to throw down their rude arms and submit to the authority of their legitimate and friendly King, like all other Spanish subjects. During these many years Spain has held the same attitude of pardon and forgiveness, if her misguided subjects in Cuba, under the control of wicked and selfish leaders in the United States, would cease resistance and obey the laws of Spain, as Porto Rico obeys them, but their leaders in New York would not permit such surrender, and the unhappy revolt has therefore continued until very recently with no benefit to any one.

The President of the United States may be assured that Spain stands ready to-day to promote the most liberal measures of amnesty to all those who in good faith abandon armed resistance to her authority. Certainly the United States almost as much as Spain herself must desire to see the island again pursuing the paths of good order, contentment, prosperity, and happiness. Cuba is an ancient possession of Spain, and Spain will vindicate the rightfulness and beneficence of that possession. Cuba lies at the doors of the United States. Her products imported into the United States pay a proportion of the customs revenue of this powerful Republic of the West, which too few people understand or appreciate. It is to be hoped that, with a revival of good order and industry in that prolific and beautiful island, the commercial relations between her, as a province of Spain represented in the Spanish cortes at Madrid, and the United States may be drawn closer and closer, to the mutual and abiding interest of Americans and Cubans. To promote this peaceful object is a work to which the undersigned is constantly reminded by his sovereign that he must dedicate his best efforts.

The undersigned avails himself of this occasion to renew to the honorable William M. Evarts the assurances of his most distinguished consideration.

ANTONIO MANTILLA.

No. 5.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Mantilla.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
Washington, April 10, 1878.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 23d ultimo, regarding the present political condition of the Island of Cuba, and to observe, at the same time, that the statements made by you will be attentively read and carefully considered.

Accept, sir, a renewed assurance of my distinguished consideration.

F. W. SEWARD,
Acting Secretary.

Señor Don ANTONIO MANTILLA, &c., &c., &c.

No. 6.

Mr. Hall to Mr. Seward.

No. 663.] UNITED STATES CONSULATE-GENERAL,
Havana, February 16, 1878.

SIR: For a month, at least, previous to the recent festivities, which were ordered to take place in the island in honor of the marriage of the King of Spain, it was currently reported that, during the festivities, peace with the Cuban insurgents would be announced. These reports were not of an official character, and were not generally credited, although it is well known that for a long time General Martinez Campos has been making great efforts to bring about some arrangement with the insurgents whereby they might be induced to lay down their arms.

On the 13th instant there were received from the interior of the island numerous printed supplements, containing what purport to be and are beyond a doubt the bases agreed upon between General Martinez Campos and the so-called "Central Junta of Camaguey," for a treaty of peace, the same having been communicated by Martinez Campos, by telegraph, to General Figueroa, commanding the Villas department, and by the latter transmitted to the several military commanders of Trinidad, Cienfuegos, Remedios, Sagua, and Colon, in each of which places the terms were published and circulated. It caused some surprise that they were not, as is alleged, communicated to Havana, and here published in the usual official form in the Gaceta; the versions which have since appeared in the Havana papers having been taken from those of the interior.

On the 14th instant, however, the Diario published a telegram from its correspondent at headquarters, as follows:

Peace in the island is a fact about to be realized. Maximo Gomez, *president* of the *Cuban Republic*, the chamber and government, in accord with the Camageyan forces, are at work to establish peace, &c.

This telegram, confirming to a certain extent the news of the previous day, set at rest many doubts which had existed as to the authenticity of the statements from the interior. It caused some surprise and many comments that it should contain a recognition of the "Cuban republic, chambers, and government," hitherto styled bandits, incendiaries, &c., &c.

The terms of the proposed peace are worthy of note. Article 1st provides that the Island of Cuba shall have the same concessions enjoyed by the island of Puerto Rico. With the exception that the latter sends representatives to the Spanish Cortes, it is generally understood that the two islands have the same form of government and administration.

Article 2 is considered ambiguous, and doubts are expressed in reference to it, whether it might not be construed to prevent the return of those who are absent from the island, but who are not undergoing penalties, as also whether it will embrace the unconditional restoration of embargoed and confiscated property.

Article 3d will beyond doubt prove very unsatisfactory to planters and slave-owners.

On the evening of the 14th General Jovellar, accompanied by General Figueroa and other officials, left for Puerto Principe. It is well understood that his departure has reference to pending negotiations with the insurgents.

I further transmit an article from the Diario, of the 14th, which I doubt not will be found of interest.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY C. HALL.

Hon. F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary of State, Washington.

Inclosures.

1. Proposed bases of peace negotiations with the Cuban insurgents.
2. Translation of above.
3. Copy of telegram published in the Diario of 14 February, 1878.
4–5. Article and translation from the Diario of the above date.

[Inclosure No. 2 with dispatch No. 663.]

HAVANA, *February 16th*, 1878.

[Translation.]

MILITARY COMMANDANCY OF COLON.

His excellency the commandant general of the Villas, by telegram of this date from Trinidad, states the following:

I have this moment received from his excellency, the general-in-chief, the following telegram:

ZANJON, *February* 10, 1878.

I have accorded with the central junta of the Camagney, which has substituted government and chambers for making peace, the following basis:

ARTICLE 1. Concession to the island of Cuba the same political privileges, organic and administrative, enjoyed by the island of Puerto Rico.

2. Oblivion of the past, as regards political offences committed since the year 1868 up to the present, and the liberty of those under trial or who are fulfilling sentences within or outside of the island. A general pardon to the deserters from the Spanish army, without distinction of nativity; this clause to be extended to all those who have taken any part, directly or indirectly, in the revolutionary movement.

3. Freedom to the slaves and Asiatic colonists now in the insurrectionary ranks.

4. No person who in virtue of this capitulation recognizes and remains within the authority of the Spanish Government shall be compelled to render any service of war, so long as peace is not established in all the territory.

5. Every person who desires to leave the island shall be at liberty to do so, and he shall be furnished by the Spanish Government with the means therefor, without entering a town, if he should so desire it.

6. The capitulation of each force shall take place outside the towns, where the arms, implements of war, shall be laid down.

7. The general-in-chief of the Spanish army, in order to facilitate the means for uniting the other departments (in this convention) shall make free all the means of communication, by sea and land, that he can dispose of.

8. The agreement made with the central junta shall be considered as general, and without special restrictions, for all the departments of the island which accept these propositions.

I make it known to your excellency, for the information of yourself and of the troops under your command, with the understanding that operations shall be suspended, the troops being restricted to acting upon the defensive and to escorting convoys.

In the event of any of our forces falling in with the enemy they will make known to him these bases without firing upon him.

Your excellency will also order that experienced guides shall go out immediately with these instructions and make them known to the chiefs of the opposing forces, until the commissioners of the central junta for that purpose, who have this jurisdiction, shall arrive.

By order of his excellency the general-in-chief.

The chief of staff.

PRENDERGAST.

Which I have the satisfaction of communicating to your highness for information and order that it may be published by the newspapers of that locality by means of extras or other means which the zeal of your highness may suggest, in order that such an important event may become known to the inhabitants of that jurisdiction, and remitting printed copies also to the chiefs of columns in operations for its greater publicity.

FIGUEROA.

All of which I have the satisfaction to make public for the general information of the loyal inhabitants of this jurisdiction.

COLON, *11th February*, 1878.

JUAN DOMINGO,
Colonel, Military Commandant.

[Inclosure No. 3 with dispatch No. 663.]

HAVANA, *February* 16, 1878.

[Translation.]

[From the "Diario de la Marina" of 14th February, 1877.]

We have just received the following telegram from the correspondent of the press, at headquarters, which says more than we could say in commenting upon it:

"SANTA CRUZ, 12*th February*.

"Director del 'Diario de la Marina,' Habana

"The peace of the island is now a fact about to be realized. The president of the Cuban Republic, Maximo Gomez, chamber and government in accord with the force of the Camaguey, are at work to realize peace. Also, in the Villas and Oriental departments. For those two departments commissions of important chiefs have left with that object. Hostilities suspended in all the island.

"FLORES."

[Inclosure No. 5 with dispatch No. 663.]

HAVANA, *February* 16, 1878.

[Translation.]

[From the Diario de la Marina of 14th February, 1878.]

WAR AND PEACE.

The present situation of the island is about to undergo a change. Generals Martinez Campos and Jovellar, who contributed so efficiently to the pacification of the peninsula, in all probability (and which we hope may soon become a palpable reality) will have at last been able to break the hundred heads of the hydra of the war which has caused so much desolation; the one with his indefatigable activity, with his conciliatory character, patience and constancy, the other with his tact for command, with his determination to re-enforce the action of the former in providing him as far as was humanly possible, with all the resources he needed; with his well known tolerance, his affability, his sound judgment, he having by mere force of his skill, been able to quiet excited spirits (for there are wars no less prejudicial than those of battle fields), and in maintaining complete tranquillity among the populations of all the cities.

To the government of His Majesty which, having reposed its confidence in these illustrious men, and having permitted them to act without placing any obstacle in their progress, as it would have done if it had pretended, in the great crisis through which they have passed, to direct absolutely the issues, will have had no insignificant part in the great result which we trust before long to see announced officially. At times in governing but little, more governing is accomplished, for the reason that all the details cannot be appreciated from a great distance.

The two purposes which both generals undertook to carry out were to quiet excitement, time having demonstrated that it creates rather than removes difficulties, and in vain can it be expected that the passions can accomplish what exclusively pertains to reason and judgment; the other to subjugate the enemy, not altogether by violence and the shedding of blood, but with benignity combined with energy, with the proper distribution of troops, re-establishing discipline in all its rigor wherein it might be suspected of having relaxed, were difficult, very difficult undertakings, although there are some views which do not cause the same effect when near as when seen at a distance, while the most admirable works of art are not appreciated so much when just created as after a lapse of time and the mind can judge of them dispassionately without the preventions of sympathy or antipathy caused by the envy or emulation of contemporary artists.

This is what our judgment, the result of a long series of observation, tells us, because we have always preferred above all things to be eminently practical.

The glory from these happy results which we definitely look for, as our estimable colleague the Voz de Cuba in its well-reasoned article, says, pertains in a great measure to Generals Jovellar and Martinez Campos, for among all the services that can be rendered to a country the greatest of all is that of restoring to it peace; because war is the cause of every calamity which can sadden and afflict a people.

The poet Aristophanes has represented war under the figure of a gigantic monster, armed with a pestle and mortar in which he pulverizes not only cities but their inhabitants. A French author calls war "the sister of death and the law of the robbers," and in all centuries it has been the horror of nations. Nations need peace, because they can live only by labor and industry, and there is no heart so insensible as not to be horrified by its desolations, by the sinister lights of its conflagrations, and its blood and carnage.

Peace is the symbol of order, and without order all is confusion; without peace it is impossible that public interests be developed, nor can any measure for increasing the public wealth be carried out. War absorbs everything; it consumes the very elements that nurture it.

What would be the flourishing condition of Cuba if the immense sums that have been spent in sustaining the strife, which for more than nine years has disturbed us, without excluding what it has cost the enemy, however limited his resources, if those sums had been invested in works of public utility and in the development of our industries? What would be the aspect of Havana and of the principal cities of the island?

When wars have for their object the removal of obstacles to the prosperity of a decaying country, or for bettering the condition of the needy classes if over them weighs the iron arm of indigence, they have an honest pretext; but when that impulse controls, the works which represent the labor of centuries are not destroyed.

Only ambition, the negation of every generous impulse, and the most abominable cruelty would influence the minds of those who would not rejoice before the proximity of peace.

And it is a proof of what we say, that Turkey, which has given ostensible proofs of heroism in the war of the Titans she has sustained, prefers the humiliation of defeat to the continuation of a series of disasters, which in the end, could be no other than the complete destruction of all her territory and the loss of life and of her political existence in the concert of nations.

Welcome, then, peace above all, and with peace the greatest difficulties can be overcome tranquilly.

Those whom Divine providence has selected as the instruments of His omnipotent will to restore to us that great blessing, merit well of the country and the pure and disinterested love of all the good.

No. 7.

Mr. Hall to Mr. Seward.

No. 664.] UNITED STATES CONSULATE-GENERAL,
Havana, February 23, 1878.

HON. F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary of State, Washington:

SIR: With my dispatch No. 663 of the 16th instant, I transmitted a copy and translation of the proposed basis of negotiations for peace between Spain and the Cuban insurgents. I stated therein, that these terms had not then been published officially in the Havana papers. On the 19th instant, however, the same were published in a supplement of the Gaceta, and again, on the 20th in the paper itself as per copy and translation herewith. The authenticity of the document being fully established, I thought proper to advise the department by the cable, as follows:

HAVANA, *February* 19, 1878.

Secretary of State, Washington:

The bases of negotiations for peace and surrender of insurgent forces are published here to-day officially. There appears no doubt whatever that peace will be realized.

HALL.

I am further informed by the consul at Santiago de Cuba, that Maximo Gomez and the two other insurgent chiefs had arrived at that place, on the 16th instant, *en route* for the insurgent camps in that department with the purpose of inducing the forces, still in arms, to accept the proposed bases. There is but little doubt that they will be successful and that ere long peace will be fully established.

In my dispatch No. 663, I had occasion to refer to the dissatisfaction created among planters and slave-owners by the 3d article of the proposed bases; it was asserted that General Jovellar's departure for Puerto Principe was with special reference to that article, the members of the

casino, it was said also, were to have an extraordinary meeting with the view of expressing their opinions, which were understood to be in opposition to the proposed terms, and especially to the 3d article of the bases. But whatever may have been their original intention, the result of the meeting was the transmission of congratulatory telegrams to Spain and to General Martinez Campos, and a general manifestation of hearty approval of all his efforts in obtaining a termination so satisfactory of existing difficulties.

In connection with the foregoing, I beg to invite your attention to an article under, the head of "La Paz," published in the Voz de Cuba of the 19th instant, in which it is claimed that the surrender of the insurgents is the result of their own motion, and not of any proposal emanated from General Martinez Campos. The article referred to makes some comparisons which are also worthy of attention, although quite out of place. I regret that I am not able to furnish a full translation by this mail.

It is also known that, by the steamer leaving to-day for New York, an authorized agent of the central committee of the Cuban Government has taken passage for the purpose of conferring with the Cuban junta in the United States.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY C. HALL,
Consul-General.

[Inclosure No. 1 with dispatch No. 664.]

HAVANA, *February* 23, 1878.

GACETA EXTRAORDINARIA.

TUESDAY, *February* 19, 1878.

General Government of the Island of Cuba:

For the information and satisfaction of the public, there are published the following bases conceded by his excellency the general-in-chief in accord with this government, for the capitulation of the forces of the insurrection still in arms. These bases are a sure guarantee of an immediate peace, as glorious for the illustrious general who has had the direction of the war, for the army, as honorable and generous for the capitulating forces, and necessary, above all, for the country, which by favor of these terms will be able, after long years of perturbation, to reach the termination of its extraordinary sacrifices, and to dedicate anew the whole of its productive forces to the development of its paralyzed prosperity.

BASES.

Article 1. Concession to the island of Cuba the same political privileges, organic and administrative, enjoyed by the island of Puerto Rico.

2. Oblivion of the past as regards political offences committed since the year 1868 up to the present, and the liberty of those under trial or who are fulfilling sentences within or outside the island. A general pardon to the deserters from the Spanish army, without distinction of nativity. This clause to be extended to all those who have taken any part, directly or indirectly, in the revolutionary movement.

3. Freedom to the slaves and Asiatic colonists now in the insurrectionary ranks.

4. No person, who in virtue of this capitulation recognizes and remains within the authority of the Spanish Government, shall be compelled to render any service of war, so long as peace is not established in all the territory.

5. Every person who desires to leave the island shall be at liberty to do so, and he shall be furnished by the Spanish Government with the means therefor, without entering a town if he should so desire it.

6. The capitulation of each force shall take place outside the towns, where the arms, implements of war, shall be laid down.

7. The general-in-chief of the Spanish army, in order to facilitate the means for uniting the other departments (in this convention), shall make free all the means of communication, by sea and land that he can dispose of.

8. The agreement made with the central junta, shall be considered as general and without special restrictions for all the departments of the island which accept these propositions.

HABANA, 19*th February*, 1878.

JOVELLAR.

No. 8.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Hall.

No. 440.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 26, 1878.

To HENRY C. HALL, Esq.,
Consul-General of the United States, Havana, Cuba:

SIR: I have to inform you of the receipt of your telegram of the 19th inst., of which the following is a copy: "Secretary of State, Washington: The bases of negotiations for peace and surrender of insurgent forces are published to-day officially. There appears no doubt, whatever, that peace will be realized. Hall."

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

No. 9.

Mr. Hall to Mr. Seward.

No. 666.] UNITED STATES CONSULATE-GENERAL,
Havana, March 2, 1878.

SIR: With reference to my dispatches Nos. 663 and 664, of the 16th and 23d ultimo, I now transmit copies and translations of several official reports of the surrender of portions of the Cuban insurgent forces at Puerto Principe, Sancti Spiritus, La Trocha, and other places in the central department of the island. From these statements it appears that, on the 28th ultimo, the Cuban insurgent forces of the Camaguey district, or a part of them, surrendered at Puerto Principe to General Martinez Campos; their number is not given in the telegram, but I have been informed by General Jovellar that about one thousand men, with the central committee or junta (comprising about all that remains to represent the late Cuban Government), passed in review and were disbanded. On the 1st instant, yesterday, other bodies of the insurgents, to the number of eight hundred men surrendered at the Trocha, and in Sancti Spiritus. Some of the forces scattered through the Villas department, it is said, are being collected prior to a final surrender and disbandment. It would seem, therefore, that the forces of the Villas and central departments, comprising the half or more of the late insurrectionary district, have accepted the terms of reconciliation, and that in those departments, at least, the insurrection has virtually terminated. There still remain the forces of the oriental department which have not yet been heard from, but it is not probable that these forces will hold out after the surrender of the main body, and in fact of the very nucleus of the insurrection. I respectfully call your attention to the important decrees published in the Gaceta Oficial of this date, and of which I will forward translations in my next. The first of these decrees delares that the island of Cuba shall have representation in the Spanish Cortes on the same conditions as those existing in Puerto Rico. It provides also for the establishment of the same provincial and municipal laws now ruling in Spain, and in Puerto Rico. The second decree, which is in conformity with article 3d of the bases

of capitulation of the insurgent forces, provides for the freedom of the slaves who were in the insurrection, on the 10th February ultimo, and who shall present themselves in any form to the authorities, or to the troops of the government before the 31st instant.

I have, &c.,

HENRY C. HALL,
Consul-General.

[Inclosure.—Translation.]

From the Voz de Cuba, of 2d March, 1878.

INTERESTING NEWS.

Our readers will have seen in the morning edition the telegram dated 28th February, sent us by the correspondent of the press in campaign from Puerto Principe; the late hour in which we received it gave us time only to insert it, and we omitted our comments in order that our subscribers might receive, in time, the grateful news it contained. When our number was already in press, we received from the general government, for publication, the following telegram, confirming officially all that an active correspondent had sent us.

Captaincy-General of the ever-faithful Isle of Cuba Staff.

His excellency the general-in-chief of the army in operations, in a telegram dated Puerto Principe, 3 p. m. to-day, says to his excellency the captain-general the following:

"At 2 p. m. of to-day the surrender of the Cuban forces and arms at this jurisdiction has commenced. Published by order of H. E. for general information. Habana, 28th February, 1878.

"The brigadier chief of staff: PEDRO DE CUENCA."

The capitulation has been carried out on the day announced in the Camaguey and in the Trocha; and peace, in those two vast departments, is a reality. As can be inferred from the telegraphic dispatch of our correspondent, more than a thousand persons, four hundred of them armed, have presented themselves in the Camaguey, and in the official dispatch it is said that at their head were the chiefs and deputies. We do not know the number of the forces which have laid down their arms in the camp "Ojo de Agua," but it is to be presumed that the number is, in all, about the same as that of the forces of the Camaguey. The following from the dispatch of our correspondent, "The chiefs who have not surrendered embark for foreign ports to-day," indicate, in our judgment, that there may have been some chief who has not yet accepted the bases and has not wished to remain in the island; whichever way it may be, his departure, which will have taken place at this hour, puts an end to all further interior dissidence. In regard to the Oriental department, it is to be expected that we will soon receive news of the capitulation of the forces therein, as by this time conferences will have taken place between their chief and the commissioners *ad hoc* to conclude it. The pacification of all the island will soon, therefore, be a consummated reality, as it already is in the Central and the Villas departments. May God grant that, with peace, Cuba may enter upon a new era of prosperity and happiness.

TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE CAPTAINCY-GENERAL.

SANCTI SPIRITUS, 1*st March*, 1878.

To-day the forces of Jimenez and Sanchez, numbering 425 men, 71 women, and 30 children, have surrendered their arms at Ojo de Agua, near this place. To-day or to-morrow Lieutenant-Colonel Arias should arrive with the object of surrendering at once, and of which, I will report to your excellency. The forces ot the Remedios, at the orders of Carrillo, are collecting at Ciego Potrero, and will surrender on the 5th. The forces of José Gomez should surrender to-day at the Trocha, according to the order of Jimenez.

SANTA CLARA, 1*st March*.

To the chief of the battalion of Leon at Cumanayagua:

More than 400 men, with 6 chiefs, among them Pancho Jimenez and Serafin Sanchez, laid down their arms yesterday afternoon at Ojo de Agua.

HOLGUIN, 1*st March*.

Colonel Dominguez returned to-day, having collected those arrived at Guabajanuy, of all which he has reported. He brought 57 men, besides 22 others armed, 22 women, and 35 minors.

No. 10.

Mr. Hall to Mr. Seward.

No. 667.] UNITED STATES CONSULATE-GENERAL,
Havana, March 2, 1878.

SIR: Referring to my No. 666, I have the honor to transmit herewith copies and translations of two important decrees which appear in the Gaceta of to-day.

The first of these decrees provides for the representation of Cuba in the next Cortes of Spain, upon the same conditions which are now applied to the island of Puerto Rico; it also provides for the extension to Cuba of the municipal and provincial law of the 2d of October, 1877, now in force in Spain and in Puerto Rico.

The second decree or edict, issued by General Martinez Campos, declares that all the slaves, of both sexes, found in the insurrection on the 10th February ultimo, and who shall present themselves to the civil or military authorities of the government before the 31st day of March, 1878, shall be free and provided with vicinage certificates to that effect.

It provides also for indemnity, in due time, to those owners who have remained loyal to the government during the insurrection.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY C. HALL,
Consul-General.

HON. F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary of State, Washington.

[Inclosure No. 1 with dispatch No. 667.]

HAVANA, *March* 2, 1878.

[From the Gracete de la Habana of March 2, 1878.]

GENERAL GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAND OF CUBA.

The war, which for a period of more than nine years has demanded the preferent attention, subordinating to its vital interest every thought and every measure of the government, being near its termination and peace being happily inaugurated upon conditions of concord in the future, the opportune moment has arrived, at last for carrying out known purposes, which, on account of perturbations, have been postponed, and consequently to introduce into the present organic political and administrative system of the island all those reforms which without prejudice to the unity and prerogatives of the central authority may facilitate, by means of the action of popular corporations disencumbered, within the circle of loyality, the complete development of municipal and of provincial organization.

A long time ago, but for the war, in consonance with the provisions in the constitution of the state, Cuba would have enjoyed the advantages which, necessarily, assimilation as far as possible with the peninsula would have given her; and, aside from certain reforms of social character which are by circumstances subject to special laws and to definitive solutions of profound study in everything, relating to representation in the Cortes, the island would have been in a situation analogous to Puerto Rico.

The only opposing obstacle being removed, it becomes natural and logical to recognize the administration in the sense referred to, and to invite to the participation of public life, in behalf of the country, all the constitutive elements of the new institutions.

In accord, therefore, with his excellency the general-in-chief, and authorized by the government of His Majesty the King, I issue the following

DECREE:

ARTICLE 1. Commencing with the next coming legislature, the island of Cuba shall have its representation in the Cortes of the Kingdom upon the same terms with Puerto Rico and in accordance with its population.

ARTICLE 2. The provincial and municipal laws of the peninsula of 2d October, 1877, published in the Gaceta de Madrid of the 4th of the same month and year, shall also be adopted in its government and administration in the manner now in force in Puerto Rico.

ARTICLE 3. The government of His Majesty will be solicited to apply to this island in succession, with the modifications it may deem expedient and in virtue of the provisions of article 89 of the constitution of the monarchy, other laws already promulgated or which may be promulgated for the peninsula.

JOAQUIN JOVELLAR.
ARSENIO MARTINEZ CAMPOS.

HAVANA, 1*st March*, 1878.

[Inclosure No. 2, with dispatch No. 667.]

[Translation.]

From the Gaceta de la Habana, of March 2, 1878.

ARMY OF OPERATIONS OF THE ISLAND OF CUBA.

The insurgents of the central department and of the commandancy-general of the Trocha, having laid down their arms, and in expectation that their example will be followed soon by the others in the island;

The day, therefore, of the long wished for peace being near, and desiring to signalize the happy event by a new proof of the firm purpose which animates the government of His Majesty to continue in the road of progress long since undertaken, avoiding at the same time possible derangements of social order and of measures adopted in the period of the war;

Having in view the sentiment which inspired the present law of the gradual emancipation of slavery in this Antilla;

Considering, besides, that the majority of those slaves, who, for any cause, are to-day in the insurrection, have not figured in the census made in 1870 for classifying their legal status, or otherwise, that may have belonged to owners who, in taking an active or indirect part in the Cuban revolution, declared, in fact or by their own will, the freedom of their slaves; and, on the other hand, taking into consideration their condition, that at that time they had no civil or political responsibility; and finally recognizing the right of those owners who have maintained complete fidelity to the national cause to indemnification by the state, in sacrificing to other expediencies their legitimate property;

Authorized by the government of His Majesty the King, and in accord with his excellency the governor-general of the island, I issue the following

EDICT:

ARTICLE 1. All slaves of both sexes that may have been found in the insurrection on the 10th day of February shall remain free if they present themselves in any form to the legitimate authorities or troops of the government before the 31st day of the present month of March.

ARTICLE 2. The legitimate owners of those freedmen who have taken any part or have aided in any way, that can be proven, the insurrection, shall have no right to any indemnification in the premises.

ARTICLE 3. The lawful owners of the said freedmen who are not comprised in the preceding article shall be indemnified in due time in conformity with what is ordered in the law of gradual emancipation.

ARTICLE 4. The local authorities shall issue certificates of vicinage as free citizens to those slaves who present themselves and are found to be comprised in article 1, giving a detailed and direct account to the respective commandancies-general, which will act in concert with the local juntas of freedmen in regard to their new status.

Puerto Principe, 1st March, 1878.

ASENIO MARTINEZ CAMPOS.
JOAQUIN JOVELLAR.

No. 11.

Mr. Hall to Mr. Seward.

No. 668.] UNITED STATES CONSULATE-GENERAL,
Havana, March 5, 1878.

SIR: With reference to my dispatches No. 664, of the 23d ultimo, and No. 666, of the 2d instant, relating to the surrender of the Cuban insurgents, I beg to transmit herewith an article, from the Diario of this date, containing about all of interest that has transpired since forwarding my last-mentioned dispatch. The reports received thus far are very meager; it would seem, however, that up to the present, two thousand and upwards of the insurgents have laid down their arms. There still remain to be accounted for the several forces in the eastern department and in the department of the Villas, whose numbers are variously estimated at from two to four thousand. There is no doubt, I imagine, that these bodies will soon give in their adhesion, and with it the insurrection of Yara, which has existed over nine years, may be said to have ended. The terms given the insurgents are considered honorable to them as well as to Spain. It is noticeable also that the rancors and animosities, which existed between Cubans and Spaniards during the first years of the war, have to a great extent disappeared. The time is therefore propitious for the voluntary introduction of the long-promised reforms in the government of the island.

I have, &c.,

HENRY C. HALL,
Consul-General.

[Inclosure.—Translation.]

From the Diario de la Marina, of March 5, 1878.

NEW ADHESIONS TO THE CAPITULATION

We have said that the war is virtually terminated, by reason of the resignation of the authorities from whom emanated the powers of all those who had command of the forces of the revolution, or discharged special commissions in Cuba or abroad; even in the event that the latter might not be convinced of the sterility of their efforts in sustaining the ideas they entertained, they could not do otherwise than to follow the example of the most prominent men of the Cuban forces, although they might not agree to exchange their status for another which carried with it a loss of personal prestige; authority cannot exist when it has lost the nucleus which sustains it. We are not surprised, therefore, at the news we have received, that Aldama, Echevarria, and others who held official positions in New York had decided to resign when they were informed of what had occurred in Cuba by the emissaries of the central Cuban committee, appointed for the purpose of making peace, We have given an account to our readers of the surrender of their arms by the Cuban forces in the jurisdiction of Sancti Spiritus, in consonance with what had been done previously by the division of the central department; the same will also be carried out on the 6th by scattered forces in the territories of Sagua, Santa Clara, Cienfuegos, and Colon, which, by order of their chief, Maestre, are to unite on that day at a point previously fixed upon near Paso Real. The information we have by correspondence from Santo Domingo just received, and which besides confirms other news of the same nature communicated to a person whom we consider well informed. In the said letter it is stated, also, that at the time the order was given to the subaltern chiefs, in command of squads, to commence the movement of concentration, they were also instructed to suspend hostilities, and that the news of peace becoming circulated in the ranks, there were many who manifested joy at the prospect of soon returning to their families and of rest from fatigues and privations. On the other hand the commandant general of those forces, a person of great influence among his subordinates, is animated by the same conciliatory spirit of which the capitulated chiefs have given proofs, so that with these antecedents it can be assured that the mission of the envoys sent by the central Cuban committee to con-

fer with the commanders beyond the Trocha will meet the success that was to be expected. As we informed our readers at the time, one of the chiefs who most merited this confidence is the renowned Marcos Garcia who, according to a letter we received a few days ago from Santa Clara, has manifested the greatest zeal and interest in behalf of peace, having omitted neither means nor efforts in obtaining an interview with Maestre, and it is not to be doubted that he will follow the example of his other companions on the designated day, so near to hand. It is truly providential that the Cuban chiefs who have most distinguished themselves in the war happily terminated, should be the ones who, with the greatest enthusiasm, have embraced the idea of peace, and the ones who have most efficiently contributed to the realization of a pacification of the island; for which important service they merit the general approbation of the country. To these adhesions we are able to add another important one which we copy from the Periguero de Holguin of the 28th February, as follows: "We know that Modesto Diaz has accepted the bases of the peace, and is now in Manzanillo, where he has embraced his countryman the Brigadier Francisco Heredia, chief of the second brigade of the commandancy-general of Bayamo and Manzanillo."

No. 12.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Hall.

No. 448.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 12, 1878.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches Nos. 666 and 667, both bearing date of the 2d inst., and to state that the substance of the two decrees of the Spanish authorities accompanying the latter dispatch, issued on the occasion of the termination of the Cuban insurrection, has been communicated to the press.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

To HENRY C. HALL, Esq.,
Consul-General of the United States, Havana, Cuba.

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